A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of International Affairs
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
297 Fourth Avenue - New York 10, N.Y.

Volume 3, Number 8 $1.00 per year October, 1955

INCREASING INTEREST IN UN, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEEN IN WORLD ORDER DAY, OCT. 23

"Whether mankind under God can find the will and the wisdom to use the means for peace to make of the Atomic Era an age of peace," is "the question of our times," according to the statement of the National Council of Churches for World Order Sunday, October 23. A trend of high interest among the Churches in this question, in world affairs and in the United Nations is suggested by the increased demand for World Order Sunday folders this year. The total of over 135,000 is approximately five times that of recent years. The historic statement on "The Churches and the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations," was presented to the Secretary General of the UN at the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the UN Charter. It reaffirms the support of the Churches for the UN and deals with such issues as disarmament, the new nationalism, the international revolution, the role of the specialized agencies of the UN, regional arrangements, and the call of God to persevere in the task of achieving peace and concord.

In this Tenth Anniversary Year of the UN major nation-wide organizations concerned with international affairs are combining their efforts for community celebrations of UN Week, October 16-24 and UN Day, October 24. The Churches are fulfilling their responsibilities by furnishing leadership in such activities as well as by observing World Order Sunday in their Services of Worship on October 23.

The thrust of this year's World Order Sunday is well expressed in an address "The Moral Foundations of the United Nations" delivered by the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, at the Festival of Faith in San Francisco, June 19. He declared: "The successes of the UN have been largely due to those (people) throughout the world who believe that there is a God, a divine creator of us all; that he has prescribed moral principles which undergird this world with an ultimate authority equal to that of physical law; that this moral law is one which every man can know if only he open his heart to what God has revealed; that these moral principles enjoin not merely love and respect of the Creator but also love and respect for fellow man, because each individual embodies some element of the Divine; and that moral principles should also govern the conduct of the nations....The first 10 years of the United Nations teaches a clear lesson. The lesson is that the people of the world who are committed to the moral law have a great responsibility to assure the continued vitality of the United Nations and its capacity to influence the course of international conduct."

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RUSSIAN EXCHANGE PLANS DEVELOPING WITH REPLY FROM RUSSIA AND NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTION

A favorable reply from Russian church leaders to the overtures of the American churches for an exchange of views through visitation was reported to the General Board of the National Council of Churches meeting in Pittsburgh, October 5. The President of the NCC, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, informed the delegates that on the basis of the Board's action in June he had been in communication with Christian leaders in Russia, including His Holiness Alexei, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia,and Metropolitan Nicolay. The Russian churches replied that they not only look with favor upon a visit of Christian leaders from the U.S.A., but that they would desire to make the project a "two-way" visit by sending a delegation to this country.

Recognizing that the churches in Russia do not have the same kind of religious freedom enjoyed in the U.S.A., Dr. Blake expressed the view concurred in by the Policy and Strategy Committee of the NCC that, nevertheless, such exchange visits could be profitably held with the present relaxation of tension between East and West.

The purpose of this two-way visit by Christian leaders in Christian fellowship would be to afford an exchange of views concerning "the life and work of the churches in the two countries, including the efforts of the churches to achieve a just and durable peace." Such visitations would accord with the appeal of the World Council of Churches of Evanston in 1954 for representatives of churches in countries between which tension exists "to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship and promote the reconciliation of nations."

Some American churchmen have visited Russia recently and some Russian church leaders have visited in Europe and Britain but the proposed exchange would be the most representative visit ever held between the churches of the U.S.A. and the USSR.It is envisioned that the churchmen from the U.S.A. would also meet with leaders of the other Christian groups in Russia, such as Lutherans and Baptists. The National Council, through its General Board, voted to invite representatives from the churches of Russia to be its guests in America. No negative votes were cast; there was one abstention. It also voted that the NCC staff consult the U.S. State Department as to policy and details involved in carrying out such a two-way visit. The dates for the exchange have not been set. Exploration of plans continues with further impetus furnished by this new General Board action.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY EXPRESSED FOR GREEK VICTIMS IN TURKEY

Christian concern was expressed in another NCC General Board action, for the Greek minority in Turkey who suffered from violence, and for the destruction of Greek Orthodox Churches there. The NCC is composed of five Orthodox Churches, including the Greek Orthodox, and 25 Protestant communions. It was voted to convey this concern to the Secretary of State of the U.S.A., to the U.S. Delegation to the UN, and to the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch in Istanbul where the worst violence occurred.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORT CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL BOARD

In other actions with significance for international affairs, the General Board of the NCC adopted a Statement on Religious Liberty dealing with freedom, human rights and civil liberties. They set forth a pronouncement expressing "deep grief" and Christian concern over "tragic events, such as those which have recently occurred in Mississippi," and the need for people in all sections of the country to repent and devote themselves to "the attainment of just and righteous relations among the races." They reaffirmed the NCC's previous position, adopted in 1952, favoring liberalizing of the U.S. immigration laws and authorized testimony before the Senate Committee hearings.

IMMIGRATION HEARINGS SCHEDULED BY SENATE COMMITTEE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 21

Both political parties have proclaimed the need for basic revision of the McCarran-Walter Act. Neither did anything about it in the last session of Congress. Now the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee headed by Senator Harley M. Kilgore, (D - W. Va.) has announced that it will hold hearings beginning November 21, lasting for about two weeks.

As to the role of the Churches, it is expected that, on the basis of the General Board action in October, the National Council of Churches will testify for liberalization of the immigration law, including the setting of a more flexible quota system, the removal of all discriminatory provisions based on color, race or sex, and the establishment of a system of fair hearings and appeals with regard to the issuance of visas and deportation proceedings. It is also expected that a number of lay and pastoral leaders will testify representing some of the communions constituent of the NCC.

It is reported by usually reliable sources that persuasive agreements will have to be presented by strong leaders from various segments of American life if these hearings are to have effective legislative results beyond their educational value. Letters to the Chairman, members of the Committee, and other Senators and Representatives will add to the weight of the testimony. The time is relatively short for groups who wish to testify to get their requests in to the Committee. The period is also short for constituents to contact their Senators and Representatives about this, as well as other legislative concerns, while many of them are still in their home territory.

REVIEW AND PREVIEW ON "TRICK OR TREAT" AT HALLOWEEN FOR UNICEF

Increasing numbers of communities across the U.S.A. are developing new traditions for "a new American Halloween for the World's Children." Now is a good time for three things: 1) To review plans in the local community where such a program is already set up for this year. 2) For those who are not sure, to find out whether such a program has been planned in their local community and, if so, to do all possible to cooperate with it. 3) To start to lay plans now for a program in the local community for next year, working through such agencies as the council of churches or a citizens' committee. Helpful materials are available: Some free descriptive information about such a program, and a UNICEF Halloween planning kit at $1.00 (make checks payable to U.S. Committee for UNICEF); address: "Trick or Treat," U.S. Committee for UNICEF, United Nations, N.Y.

UN SUPPORT IN UNEXPECTED MOVE BY AMERICAN LEGION

In its national convention the American Legion gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the United Nations. This was an unexpected development which came by way of voting down a proposal to condemn the UN. This action came on the day following the voice vote favoring repeal of the U.S. Commission to UNESCO, while not asking the U.S. to withdraw from the international organization. Although a nation-wide campaign within the Legion by an anti-UNESCO group was expected to bring a negative vote, it was not expected that such action would be taken without benefit of the American tradition of free speech and observance of the democratic process. The press reported that by parliamentary tactics and organizational work among delegates an anti-UNESCO resolution was put through in a quick maneuver which prohibited any opportunity for debate. Many members of the Legion were anxious to support UNESCO in floor debate and to vote for the Murphy report, a factual study of UNESCO by a six member Legion committee headed by Ray Murphy, popular, prominent past national commander. The report is an objective, thorough research of UNESCO's activities and publications; it finds, contrary to previous charges of some Legionnaires, UNESCO is not atheistic, nor communistic, nor propagandizing for world government. This is the second such favorable report on UNESCO produced within the Legion by competent men who have taken the time and effort to know what UNESCO is and does.

UN TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DATE: SOME THINGS OLD, SOME THINGS NEW

In the wake of a series of unusual international meetings including the Four Power Conference and the Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, the San Francisco celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter and the pioneering Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, the Tenth General Assembly has brought forth both old and new. Some old issues, albeit with less recrimination, have been seen as in the U.S.S.R.'s immediate move and the U.S.A.'s counter-move with regard to attempting to seat Peiping government representatives as the Chinese delegation. A new spirit, "The Geneva spirit," has been evident generally, both in tone and in substance of speeches.

With the lessening of East-West hostility, there was a sort of vacuum into which other issues rushed with the first presentation of the major nations in general debate. One dominant note of this General Assembly has been "colonialism." This question has been evident in actions such as the concern given to West New Guinea, and to North African problems, and especially in Algeria being put on the agenda by Assembly popular vote overruling a committee vote. (It should be noted with regard to the walk-out of France because of this that she is absenting herself from the General Assembly only, while still fulfilling her responsibilities in other organs of the UN, such as the Security Council and the Sub-committee on Disarmament.) Related to these "colonialism" questions is another knotty one, namely that of "domestic" jurisdiction versus "international."

Debate became more heated, also, over the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, with the line being drawn more sharply again by the East and the West, the U.S.S.R. supporting first Poland, then Yugoslavia, with the U.S.A. supporting the Philippines

On the issue of atoms-for-peace there has been an increasing spirit of mutual concern. There seems good hope for the establishment by this General Assembly of an atoms-for-peace agency related to the UN for heading up such international relations.

On the issue of disarmament, the sub-committee has been working assiduously, preparing the way for consideration by the foreign ministers of the Four Powers at Geneva this month. The most recent expressions of representatives of the U.K., U.S.A, and U.S.S.R., Nutting, Stassen and Sobolev, have been in the nature of "qualified optimism" as to possible developments. "If the United Nations Assembly ... agrees to President Eisenhower's 'open sky' plan for mutual aerial inspection and exchange of blueprints of the nations' military installations, it will be unique and historic. This plan would end the specter of a massive surprise assault which has haunted the world since the end of World War II and which has been one of the greatest causes of world tension. This would lead the way to the utmost limits of mutual disarmament for which the free world yearns," said Ambassador Lodge, U.S.A. on this issue.

The key-note of cautious hope was struck by Dr. J.M.A.H. Luns, of the Netherlands, as temporary President at the opening session of the Tenth General Assembly. He said that this was perhaps the first time in the history of the United Nations that they had met "without being crushed by the great problems that had to be solved" before peace and security could become a living reality. For the year 1955 so far had brought the world "new hope where before there was frustration, apathy and even despair." In the past, he went on, they had some times had occasion to rejoice at the temporary easing of "particularly dangerous situations." They had learned to be thankful for "small mercies." But in the course of this year some careful steps had been taken on the long and difficult road that all hope would lead ultimately to the goal of "living together in harmony while respecting each other's convictions," he said. Dr. Luns mentioned first "the encouraging example of four great powers, endeavoring to find the answers to some of the questions" that had kept the world divided. This had been only a first attempt, and it was too early for sentiments of optimism, "but there is hope," he said.

LETTER TO U.S. DELEGATES TO UN EXPRESSES CONCERNS OF CHURCHES IN UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Following what has become an established and important custom, officials of the National Council of Churches on September 29, sent a letter to members of the United States delegation to the Tenth General Assembly of the United Nations. In it they expressed prayers for God's blessings upon them in their work and set forth some of the continuing concerns of the Churches in international affairs. These letters were signed by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President; Dr. C. Arild Olsen, Executive Secretary, Division of Christian Life and Work; and Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director, Department of International Affairs.

Following are some excerpts from these letters which were personally addressed to each of the five members, the five alternates, and the Secretary of State: ..."It is our earnest prayer that God will guide you in your deliberations and give to you the wisdom required to discharge your responsibilities in such a manner as to contribute to the peace and security of our own and other nations.

"From the establishment of the United Nations the churches in America which we represent, have been steadfast in their support of it. Sometimes others have said that because many of the hopes cherished ten years ago have not been fully realized, the United Nations has ceased to have meaning or reality. We hold the opposite view, - that the United Nations is now more clearly seen as sheer necessity to avoid international anarchy and war. At this juncture in the relations of nations the General Assembly, given bold and constructive leadership, can considerably advance man's search for world justice and peace.

"As Officers of the National Council of Churches we bring to your attention certain items on the agenda that are of particular concern to the churches as expressed by their representative actions." Sections of the letter were then devoted to specific positions of the churches on the issues of: Disarmament, Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, UN Charter Review, Dependent Peoples, Economic and Social Foundations of World Order, Refugees, The Near East, and The Specialized Agencies.

After quoting from the 1955 World Order Day Message reaffirming confidence in the United Nations and God's call to service through it, they concluded: "It is in this spirit that we address ourselves to you. It is in this spirit that we petition Almighty God to direct your labors during the days ahead."

In reply, letters have been received from U.S. Delegates to the UN indicating the value which they put on these messages from the Churches. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., for example, expressed his appreciation, and wrote, "It is good, too, to know of the National Council's thoughtful consideration of international affairs as evidenced by your comments." He indicated the value of personal contacts of Dr. Van Kirk, and of Dr. Nolde of C.C.I.A. He discussed in specific terms, disarmament, atoms-for-peace and the refugee question, then concluded: "Thank you again for sending us your comments. Your spiritual support is always a source of real encouragement."

DAILY SERVICES OF PRAYER AT THE UNITED NATIONS ARE PART OF UN WEEK OBSERVANCE

Leading religions of the world will be represented by those who conduct daily prayer services at the UN Headquarters in New York in observance of the tenth anniversary of ratification of the United Nations Charter. These services of prayer will be held in the Meditation Room of the General Assembly Building of the UN at 1:30 P.M. daily from Sunday, October 16 through Monday, October 24, which is UN Day. Representatives of Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Moslem, Eastern Orthodox, Hindu and Buddhist religions will take turns in conducting these services.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NEWS OF COUNCILS OF CHURCHES AND COMMUNIONS

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, NOVEMBER 4, FEATURES "PARCELS FOR PEACE", OFFERINGS, PRAYER

"Building Lasting Peace" is the theme of World Community Day, November 4, when ten million women in a spiritual undertaking rededicate themselves to building life, friendship and lasting peace. The annual observance of this special day, a part of the program of United Church Women, has been growing each year in the number and importance of services conducted in local communities throughout the land. This year, remembering the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread," women will be bringing both offerings of money for food and "parcels for peace." The offering will be used to support the Church World Service program of Share our Surplus, to send medicine, and to furnish tools for farming and training for the handicapped, and will be used in such areas as French West Africa, among Arab refugees, in mountain villages of Greece and Austria and in Japan. "Parcels for Peace" will include clothing for boys, 16 years and up, and for men, yardage of denim and sheeting, and children's clothing; these will be used in Pakistan, India, Okinawa, Korea and Europe.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN SHOWS HIGH INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Meeting in their Seventh National Assembly at Cleveland, November 7-10, United Church Women, of the National Council of Churches, have announced a program which indicates their continuing leadership in thought and action in the field of international relations. Among other highlights of the program are the following: Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. James Robinson, both speaking on the theme: "The Church Faces the Revolutionary World;" Dr. M.A. Thomas of India; and former Ambassador to India, Chester A. Bowles, speaking on the theme: "The Churches' Opportunities in the Revolutionary World." With the inspiration of such a program and on the basis of advance study, it is expected that important reports and resolutions will result from this assembly.

CCIA AT WORK AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ALSO PUBLISHES BACKGROUND MATERIAL

An outstanding service rendered by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, the agency related to the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, is its representation to the various United Nations organs and agencies of the concerns of Christians around the world. It is already being reported to the Department of International Affairs that CCIA is making Christian convictions and influence known at this session of the General Assembly.

Another valuable service to the churches and church leaders is CCIA's publication each year of a document dealing in specific terms with items on the agenda of the General Assembly which are of particular concern to the churches. This document is available for this year; the title is, MEMORANDUM, C.C.I.A. and the Tenth Session of the General Assembly. This 58 page publication deals with 32 selected items of the provisional agenda of the current session of the UN General Assembly. It sets forth these items as they appear on the agenda, and for many issues it gives sections on the "Background" and the "Basis for the CCIA Position." It also contains the full text of the statement "Disarmament and Peaceful Change" (excerpts appeared in the September Newsletter) as adopted by the Executive Committee of the CCIA 28/7/55 and by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches 4/8/55 at Davos, Switzerland. This Memorandum is designed primarily for guidance of the CCIA representation at the General Assembly, including Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Director, Dr. Richard Fagley, Executive Secretary, Dr. Elfan Rees, Representative in Europe, and Mr. A. Dominique Micheli, of Interchurch Aid of WCC. Copies are available for general information, 20¢ each: CCIA, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

PASTORAL LETTER ISSUED BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS, PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Meeting in General Convention in Honolulu, September 1955, the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church issued a Pastoral Letter to be read in all their congregations within one month. This letter has particular international concern, oriented toward the Pacific Isles and Asia. It deals with Christian attitudes toward the revolution especially manifest in those areas and emphasizes that Christian work must become indigenous there, not as a western enterprise but as Christ's Church. Following are excerpts particularly concerned with international relations:

"Since God always speaks to us where we are He speaks to us here of His Lordship over this great area of His one world, of His Lordship over East and West; of our inescapable human oneness;....of His will for His Church in the fulfillment of her mission in the islands of the Pacific and in the vast continent of Asia." Of these areas, they said, "Seeking to look upon them in the light of our faith, we see much that to our human gaze is disturbing, even frightening, yet under God full of promise.

HALF OF THE POPULATION OF GOD'S WORLD

"Half of the population of God's world is crowded into the lands towards which we look. There is a tidal upheaval of deprived, hungry peoples struggling for food and nationhood and full human status and acceptance, and resentful towards the West and towards the white man in his pride and power. Humanly speaking, there are good grounds for saying that the fate of the world will be in large measure the fate of Asia. There are the greatest masses of uncommitted peoples in the basic conflict between the total views of life and ways of life which struggle for the allegiance of men.

THESE PEOPLE ARE IN FULL REVOLT

"These people are in full revolt against foreign political and economic control, against colonialism and imperialism. They are in revolt against age-old poverty and misery, no longer willing to accept passively gross inequalities of fortune. The earthly fate of hundreds of millions is at stake in their desperate efforts to conquer intolerable physical poverty. Their humanity is asserting itself against all that destroys humanity. They are in revolt against the western white man's assumption of his permanent superiority....(Ed. underline)

AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO REMEMBER

"Those of us who are American are tempted to look upon the revolutionary upheavals of Asia with fear, wondering what all this means for our security, and whether or not these peoples will align themselves on our side. As Christians we need to remember that God is the God of Asia, the Lord of Asia's history today. The awakening of whole peoples from listless fatalism to self-awareness and self-determination, and even to self-assertion, should be for us a ground of hope. For the Christ whom we confess seeks the allegiance of free men and would lead them into the service in which alone they can find their perfect freedom.

"By bringing us here to the mid-Pacific God has called us to open our ears to the cries for help that come to us from the Churches of Asia. If we hear those calls we will be greatly concerned that the actions of our nation and the attitudes of our American people shall be guided and overruled by the purpose of God for the peoples of Asia, and not simply by our short-sighted judgments of what will be to our immediate political, military, or economic advantage. For nation and Church alike His will is our peace."

(Copies are available from: The Protestant Episcopal Church, National Council, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. 10¢ ea., $5.00/100.)

RESOURCES: FOR STUDY AND ACTION --

WORLD ORDER SUNDAY FOLDERS: LAST CALL! Those who have not yet obtained World Order Sunday Folders for their congregations for World Order Sunday, Oct. 23, who live near enough to New York may still pick them up at the Department of Publication and Distribution, National Council of Churches, 120 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N.Y. Also those who may have postponed observance of such a day in their churches may still order by mail from the same address. Folders have blue and white cover with silhouette of UN buildings, an official statement of the NCC on "The Churches and the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations," and a page of ideas for study and action. $3.00/100; 5¢ each.

PAMPHLET: The United Nations, Ten Years of Achievement, by William A. DeWitt. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 226, in cooperation with The Institute for International Order. Looking at the Record, this pamphlet considers such subjects as "Some UN Myths," the work of the various agencies of the UN, "Making Peace Legal," and "Looking Ahead." A popular, rather elementary, useful presentation containing some valuable statistics and illustrations. 28 pp. 25¢ ea.; increasing quantities at considerable discounts. Address: Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

FILM: "The Golden Gate." One reel motion picture, 10 minutes length, on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco. In 1955, for the second time, San Francisco's Opera House becomes the meeting house of the world The film recounts highlights from speeches of leading figures such as Secretary General Hammarskjold, Eisenhower of the U.S.A., Macmillan of the U.K., Molotov of the U.S.S.R., Pinay of France and others. In words and music and ceremony, some of the hopes of 1945 are born anew as the peoples of the UN seek to profit by the lessons of the last decade, renew their faith in the promise of the UN Charter, and look to the future with some increasing measure of hope. Rental: $2.50; Sale price $32.50. From the Department of Public Information, The United Nations, N.Y.

PROGRAM "SCRIPT" FOR YOUTH AND OTHERS: "United Nations Birthday Party", 4 p. radio-type program for a meeting; especially planned for youth, but useful with adaptation for men's, women's or general groups. Patterned after format of "This Is Your Life" by permission of Ralph Edwards. Cast: 2 announcers, 3 guests who make a brief appearance. 10¢ per copy. Published by Board of World Peace, Methodist Church, Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

PICTURE DISPLAY: The newest in the series published by the UN is an attractive set titled, "United Nations in Action." 12 panels, 12" X 18", blue, black and white, glossy finish. Pictures, some particularly appealing, and brief text on aims and activities of the UN and related agencies. $1.25. Obtain from International Documents Service, Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27, N.Y.; or from usual local outlets in larger cities.

This Newsletter is published 10 times per year, Sept. through June, by the Dept. of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches; the Honorable Ernest A. Gross, Chairman; Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director; Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell, Associate Executive Director, editor of the Newsletter. It is prepared by the staff to provide specialized information for education and action on current issues. Viewpoints expressed in it should not necessarily be regarded as the policy of the Dept. or of the National Council of Churches. It is designed for denominational and council secretaries; national, state and local committees; ministers, laymen, women and young people who wish to keep up with the work of the churches in this field. Subscription: $1.00 per year.